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Islander Urvin Croes wins the first "Iron Chef Aruba" competition

The Aruba Wine, Food & Art Festival at the Westin Resort in Palm Beach has been evolving and re-defining itself nearly each year since first established in 2005. This year, their "Top Chef" opening event was remodeled to imitate the "Iron Chef" TV series, with all the suspense and excitement of this popular program.

The sold out event in the Westin Ballroom pitted three top wizards of island kitchens against the clock and each other on Thursday evening, September 12, to

open this year's festival. On stage were Chef Edwin Husken of the Screaming Eagle, Urvin Croes of White Modern Cuisine and Scott Scheuerman of Aqua Grill.

They were presented with mystery baskets, from which they created three courses: a fish dish, a meat dish and dessert. They had precisely 45 minutes to prepare their creations, attractively plated and ready for judging. In each case, most of them were placing their last bit of garnish just under the wire.

Huge screens that conveyed the action to all those enjoying a sumptuous dinner allowed them to truly be immersed in the excitement of preparation and the pressure on the chefs. The evening also included the selection by the audience of the Iron Sommelier, as they sampled selections from three local distributors and their wine mavens' selections to pair with the meal. Competing for the trophy was Nicole Martina from Tropical Bottling, Charisma Hassell-Fleming from Romar Trading and Raymond Kok of Pepia Est. Raymond was announced the winner by popular vote.



Ban slams Assad for crimes on humanity as US, Russia meet

GENEVA (AFP) - UN chief Ban Ki-moon Friday accused Bashar al-Assad of crimes against humanity as complex, high-stakes talks between the US and Russia on dismantling Syria's chemical weapons arsenal reached a pivotal point, stretching late into the night.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov were holding a second day of talks in Geneva to hammer out the details of a Russian plan to bring the weapons under international control that emerged this week.

All day the top diplomats

plus their delegations shuttled in and out of meetings, breaking up into smaller technical teams, and then rushing back to consult with their governments. As both sides hailed the talks as "constructive," they confirmed the talks were looking likely to stretch into Saturday.

Teams of experts have been poring over a last-minute Russian initiative which caused US President Barack Obama to back away from planned military strikes in response to an August chemical attack near Damascus, which Washington blames on the regime and says killed about 1,400 people.

At the United Nations, Ban lashed out at Assad and said a UN inspectors' report into the incident would provide "overwhelming" confirmation that chemical weapons were used.

The Syrian leader President Bashar al-Assad had "carried out many crimes against humanity," Ban said, and insisted there had to be "accountability" once Syria's civil war is over.

The two sides "made progress in coming closer to agreement on the scope of the chemical weapons stockpile," a senior US administration official said.

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Associate Editor of National Geographic Traveller visits Aruba



Amy Alipio, Associate Editor of the famous National Geographic Traveler magazine, recently visited our island. The National Geographic has a circulation of over 8.5 million readers around the world.

The goal of Amy's visit was to experience Aruba so as to be able to share with her readers something of her experience on Aruba, giving exposure to the multitude of readers what Aruba is like. This is especially for those interested in the world of travel.

During her trip on Aruba, Amy spent one night at the Boardwalk Small Hotel Aruba and two nights at the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. Amy was simply enchanted with Eagle Beach where she spent time walking during her free time here. Her intensive program consisted of, among others, a trip to the Arikok National Park with

ABC Tours. She was able to swim in our Conchi, admire our caves and admire the paintings left by Indians. Then a swim in the popular Baby Beach. A trip by Tram through the streets of downtown and some shopping. Scuba on De Palm Island where she admired our fish and coral in Aruba's waters.

Amy Alipio also enjoyed our culinary specialties by visiting various restaurants. Among the restaurants visited were, Papiamento Restaurant, Pincho's Grill & Bar, Zeerovers, White Modern Cuisine and the new Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts' Elements Restaurant.

Amy's experience here was extremely varied, giving her much to share about Aruba and what we have to offer the traveler. Aruba's name will certainly rate high in this high class magazine, the prestigious National Geographic Traveler.

Team Aruba puts Dragstock behind them



UNION, S.C. -- Looking to build upon their best season yet, Team Aruba had high hopes heading into Dragstock X. However, tricky conditions left many competitors scratching their heads and upsets became the rule as regular frontrunners were sidelined early in qualifying and eliminations. Unfortunately for Team Aruba, this was also the case for the Aruba.com / Alltel Wireless Mustang.

Trevor Eman and team had a credible performance during qualifying, securing the number 15 spot with a 4.129 at 176 MPH. Although this put them in the field, the team was fighting an electrical issue, as well as finicky track conditions and knew they weren't running the numbers of which they were capable. Unfortunately, their issues would follow them to round one against competitor Kevin Bealko. Eman bested Bealko on reaction time (.033 to .059), but early tire shake forced Eman to abort the run and hand Bealko the win.

"Our week started out well, with displays for Alltel Wireless," told Eman. "We were really looking forward to this event and excited to have Alltel representatives at

the track with us. It is always a pleasure to see them enjoy being at the racetrack with us. Unfortunately, we weren't able to give them the performance we expected.

"The track was very tricky this past weekend," continued the Aruba native. "I know the Traction Twins did their best to give us a good racing surface, because you could see them work like dogs out on that hot track during all hours of the day and night, but unfortunately the racing surface did not cooperate with them, us, or

many of the other competitors. All we can do is put Dragstock behind us and make sure we perform better in Houston, which will be the last race of the year.

"On a more positive note, Team Aruba would like to congratulate the ADRL for packing the house, both with countless amount of fans and a record number of participants. It's always great to run in front of full stands. Despite being a sub-par weekend for us, I think the fans were able to enjoy a great weekend of racing."

The final event of the ADRL season, the World Finals, will be held at Royal Purple Raceway in Baytown, Tx. October 18-19.

"We'll be looking to redeem ourselves at the World Finals," Eman added. "We've had our strongest performance ever this 2013 season, so we're counting Dragstock as just a small bump in the road and looking to finish the year strong. Hopefully after the World Finals, we'll have another trophy to look at and inspire us during the off season!"

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Tropical Storm Ingrid forms in Gulf of Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Tropical Storm Ingrid formed off Mexico's eastern coast on Friday, threatening to trigger floods and landslides in mountain regions, forecasters said.

Ingrid was producing maximum sustained winds of 75 kilometers per hour (45 miles per hour) as it churned over the Gulf of Mexico, some 95 kilometers (60 miles) east of the port of Veracruz, according to the US National Hurricane Center's 1500 GMT bulletin.

The storm was moving west at four kilometers per hour (two miles per hour) and was expected to move very close to the Mexican coast in the next couple of days, the

Miami-based center said.

Ingrid is expected to dump 10 to 15 inches of rain on a large part of eastern Mexico and more in mountainous areas.

"These rains are likely to result in life-threatening flash floods and mudslides," the center said.

State oil company Pemex said late Thursday that it had preemptively suspended "sea and air operations" in the area although rigs in the region continued to operate.

Heavy rain has lashed Veracruz this week, killing 14 people, including 13 people who died when a landslide crushed their homes in a mountainous region of the Gulf Coast state.

Mexico's National Weather Service said torrential rains were expected in the states of Chiapas, Guerrero, Tabasco, Veracruz and Oaxaca. Several other states were expected to get soaked too.

Top Philippine casino fires US managers

MANILA (AFP) - Solaire Resort, the Philippines' biggest casino, said Friday it had fired its American managers, alleging breach of contract in a dispute that is now under arbitration. The management contract of Las Vegas-based Global Gaming Asset Management (GGAM) was terminated "because of the material breach of the management services agreement by GGAM", Solaire's parent firm said.

"GGAM has not spent any material time in attending to the management of Solaire and has failed to perform its obligations and deliverables under the management services agreement," listed Bloomberg Resorts Corp. disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Solaire opened an \$1.2-billion gaming operation in March, the first of four, billion-dollar casinos to rise on government land on Manila Bay as part of the government's bid to become Asia's third major gambling hub alongside Macau and Singapore. Bloomberg and Solaire are controlled by billionaire Philippine ports king Enrique Razon, one of the country's wealthiest men. Bloomberg said it would hire an experienced casino hotel executive to replace Michael French, GGAM's representative who was Solaire's chief operating officer.

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Aruba Certified Group outing

Recently over forty associates of the Aruba Marriott Resort, Marriott Ocean Club and Marriott Surf Club participated in the Aruba Certification Program, an educational program organized by the Aruban government.

The program is designed for every single person working in the tourism industry to enhance their knowledge of Aruba, its history, culture and natural resources and simultaneously focus on excellence in service, sustainability and social awareness.

The Aruba Marriott is the first local company in Aruba that was able to facilitate the Aruba Certification Program for a large group of attendees at their own location. It allowed more associates to participate in the program. Marriott associates were named Aruban Certified Ambassadors after completion of a five day training facilitated by Melisa Robert and Giovanni de Windt of the Aruba Tourism Authority.

The goal is to have all associates become Aruba Certified Ambassadors. The Aruba Marriott has scheduled more training in the upcoming months at the Marriott Ballroom.

Hawaiian woman wins 35-letter name battle

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A Hawaiian woman with a 35-letter surname has persuaded the Pacific island US state's authorities to change their official ID card format, because her king-sized name won't fit.

Janice Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaale, whose traditional Hawaiian name comes from her late husband, said she would never consider using a shortened version, and so used local media to press officials to take action.

"I love the Polynesian culture I married into, I love my Hawaiian name. It is an honor and has been quite a journey to carry the names I carry," Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaale, whose maiden name was Worth, told AFP.

For years she has carried two forms of identification: her driving license, which only has room for 34 characters, and her official Hawaii state ID card which in the past had room for all 35 letters.

But the problem came after Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaale's state ID was renewed in May -- and came back the same as her driver's license, with the last letter missing, and with no

first name.

Then a traffic cop pulled her over. "The policeman looked at my license and saw I had no first name. I told him it is not my fault that my license and state ID are not correct and I am trying to get it corrected."

"Over the last 22 years I have seen Hawaii is being bulldozed and the culture of Hawaii being trampled upon and this policeman treated my name as if it is some mumbo-jumbo," added Keihanaikukauakahihuliheekahaunaale, whose friends call her "Loke."

Exasperated, she took her case to a local TV station, KHON-2, who publicized the problem, putting pressure on the Hawaii Department of Transportation (DoT).

Within days, authorities, who had previously told her it would take two years to change and the surname character limit would remain at 35, had decided they could act more quickly.

"By the end of the year, we should have the new character limits in place which will be 40 characters for the first and last names, 35 characters for the middle, and 5 for the suffix," she said.

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Islander Urvin Croes wins the first "Iron Chef Aruba" competition

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Iron Sommelier Raymond Kok of Pepia Est



Master Chef Ronald van Hasenbroek sampling the dishes

Judging the Iron Chef Competition were Chef Eduard Ellis of Papiamentto Restaurant, Tina Causey-Bislick of Temptations Magazine and Hollywood Smokehouse, Chef Ronald van Hasenbroek, who has mentored Aruba culinary teams in international competitions on several occasions, and Dr. Haime, who also tracked the Best Sommelier voting.

During the first course, Chef Ervin earned kudos for an innovative presentation, compared to Chef Scott and Urvin, who both elected to make an island favorite, ceviche, for the fish course. Hanger Steak, which is a very tasty cut similar to flank steak, provided quite a challenge to the chefs, who uniformly professed they were not fully satisfied with their final presentation of the meat course. All three, however, were quite proud of how they



The competitors Scott Scheuerman of Aqua Grill, Erwin Husken of Screaming Eagle and Urvin Croes

handled their mystery dessert basket, and judges agreed, praising their final efforts as "the best offerings of the evening."

Finally, Chef Urvin Croes, a graduate of Aruba's own

EPI Culinary School, was named the Iron Chef 2013 by Westin's Assistant Food & Beverage Manager Justin Carson. This exciting evening of fine dinner and gourmet appreciation was a perfect manner in which to begin the 2013 Aruba Wine, Food & Art Festival, which continued on Friday night with the Student Competition. Current students of Aruba's EPI Culinary School will compete in teams of four, each mentored by a professional chef. This evening includes unlimited wine tasting from several island agencies and a show of works by local artists.



Three dishes of Urvin Croes



Attendees enjoyed fine wine and an adventure

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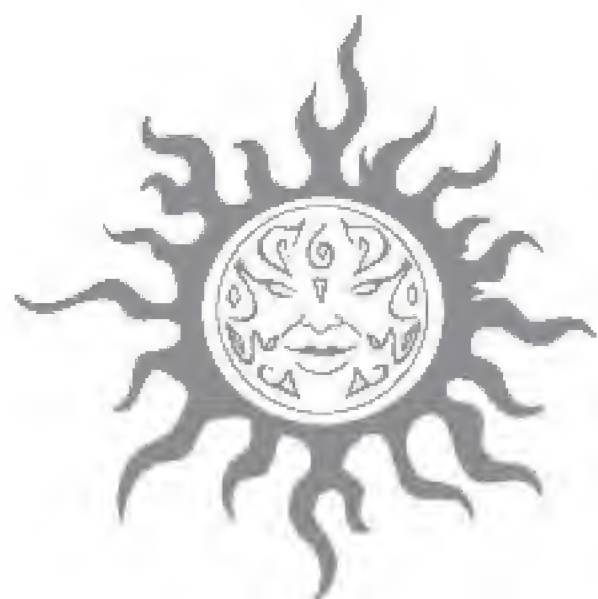


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Euro-dollar rate stable ahead of key Fed meeting

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - The euro-dollar rate was stable Friday, days before the US Federal Reserve is expected to begin cutting its \$85 billion stimulus in recognition of a strengthening US economy.

Despite the prospects for less easy money flooding into the US economy, the euro held onto its recent gains, supported by rising confidence in eurozone growth.

At around 2200 GMT, the euro was at \$1.3292, compared with \$1.3299 late Thursday.

The Japanese currency was slightly higher: the dollar bought 99.39 yen, compared with 99.47 a day earlier,

while the euro was at 132.11 yen, down from 132.28.

Most analysts said that with months of Fed forewarning, the much-anticipated taper is well-baked into the forex market, with US bond yields having jumped sharply over the past four months.

The only questions will be, just how much will it reduce the monthly bond-buying program, and how fast -- the latter a function of how strong the Fed policy makers judge US economic growth.

"At its September 17-18 meeting, we look for the Fed to taper its asset purchases to \$70 billion per month from the current \$85 billion pace,"

said Michael Gapen at Barclays.

"Although the average pace of payroll employment growth has slowed in recent months, we still see (the FOMC, the Fed's policy board) as ready to begin slowing balance-sheet expansion, since many participants are likely to view cumulative progress in reducing unemployment since last fall as meeting the hurdle for tapering."

But Kathy Lien of BK Asset Management said some recent weakness in US economic data could put off the taper, and said that underpinned the dollar's relative weakness to the euro recently.

Ban slams Assad for crimes on humanity as US, Russia meet

Continued from pg 1

The US has estimated that Syria possesses around 1,000 metric tonnes of various chemical agents, including mustard and sarin gas, sulfur and VX.

The Russian estimates had been initially much lower, the official said, without giving a figure.

"It's the same questions of what is it, where is it, how do we track it down, can we account for it, those are all part of the discussions," said a senior State Department official.

"We're obviously at a pivotal point."

Washington and Moscow were also "working hard to find common ground" to get peace talks going in Geneva that would bring together Assad's regime and the opposition and end the war which erupted in March 2011, Kerry said earlier.

He would meet again with Lavrov on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York later this month, with the hope of setting a date for the peace conference, he said.

Following the Geneva talks, Kerry will fly to Israel to brief Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday.

As the diplomatic drive intensifies, he will then travel to Paris to meet French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and British Foreign Secretary William Hague as well as the Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal.

Syria has filed documents at the United Nations seeking to join the international convention banning chemical weapons and said it now considers itself a full member.

But one of the issues still to be negotiated is the time

delay given to Syria to comply with the treaty's conventions and declare its full stockpile.

A UN spokesman said Friday the organisation has asked Syria for more information about its application, but he declined to say what was missing from the documents filed.

Washington has warned the regime that further steps will also be needed before military action would be off the table.

Fuelling concerns about Assad's sincerity, reports emerged Friday that a secret Syrian military unit was scattering the chemical weapons stockpile around the country.

Russia has not revealed many details of its plan, but Russian media report that it calls for a four-step process for the weapons handover.

Reports say the plan calls for Damascus to join the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), declare the locations of its chemical arms, allow OPCW inspectors access and finally arrange for destruction of the arsenal.

A spokesman for the Hague-based OPCW said it will meet next week to examine Syria's request.

Syria's opposition National Coalition also said it was "deeply sceptical" of the government's move and urged a tough UN resolution to enforce the measure.

"It is vital the threat of force stays on the table. For a (UN Security Council) resolution to be anything other than a get-out-of-jail-free card for the regime, it must be enforceable under Chapter 7," allowing military action, it said in a statement.



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International News

New Delhi gang rapists sentenced to death: judge

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The judge hearing the case of four men convicted for fatally gang raping a 23-year-old student on a bus in New Delhi last December sentenced them to death on Friday.

Judge Yogesh Khanna said the case fell into the "rarest of rare category", which justified capital punishment.

"In these times when crimes against women are on the rise, court cannot turn a blind eye to this gruesome act," he said.

All the four suspects were teary eyed as they entered the cramped room dressed more smartly than on Tuesday when they were convicted of a string of charges including murder and gang rape.

One of the men, Vinay Sharma, broke down in tears and cried loudly as the sentence was announced.

As the news broke, crowds inside the building and outside the courtroom roared with cheers and applauded the judgement.

The prosecution team congratulated each other, with lead lawyer Dayan Krishnan saying: "We did our job. We are happy with this sentence."

The father of the victim, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said the family was also satisfied as he left with his wife and sons.

"We are very happy. Justice has been delivered," he told reporters inside court flanked by his wife and sons.

Taliban bomb US consulate in Afghanistan



HERAT (AFP) - Seven heavily armed Taliban suicide attackers struck the US consulate in the Afghan city of Herat before dawn on Friday, setting off two car bombs and sparking a shootout with US forces.

The sophisticated attack in the western city, a key business hub near the Iranian border, underscored how the Taliban are able to strike outside their main centres in the south and east.

2 Afghan police officers and 1 guard were killed and 18 other people wounded, but US officials said there were no US

casualties with all consulate staff safe and accounted for.

The US State Department said the attackers appeared to be wearing suicide vests and detonated a truck bomb that "extensively" damaged the front gate.

The attack comes days after Pakistan said it would soon release its top Taliban prisoner, former military chief Abdul Ghani Baradar, in what Afghan officials hope can ignite peace talks.

The Taliban publicly refuse to negotiate with the Afghan government, branding Afghan President Hamid Karzai a US

puppet, but opened a liaison office in Qatar in June billed as a step towards talks with the Americans on a possible prisoner swap.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

US Ambassador James Cunningham condemned the attack and thanked Afghan and NATO troops for their quick response in securing the building and keeping consulate staff safe.

US-led NATO troops who have supported the Afghan government against the Taliban are due to end their combat mission next year, after Afghanistan holds key presidential elections.

Roughly 100,000 foreign troops now serve in Afghanistan, two-thirds of them from the United States.

Obama has pledged to the war-weary US public to end the country's longest-ever war, which was launched to fight Al-Qaeda and their Taliban allies after the September 11, 2001 attacks.



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Health & Living

Vatican-backed stem cell research wins \$1.2 mln US grant



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A Vatican-backed US company that researches an alternative to embryonic stem cells on Friday received a \$1.2 million dollar government grant, despite independent studies that question whether their product exists.

NeoStem, a New Jersey-headquartered company, is investigating very small embryonic-like (VSEL) cells found in adult bone marrow that they say may be able to regrow into different kinds of tissue.

The research has stirred controversy due to NeoStem's

marketing partnership with the Vatican and because three independent studies have been unable to confirm the cells are even there.

The latest peer-reviewed grant, totaling \$1,221,854, was provided by the US National Institutes of Health for research on an experimental drug that could regenerate bone tissue damaged by periodontitis, a serious gum disease.

The company, along with other partner institutions, has already received \$4.5 million in government research grants, including from the Depart-

ment of Defense and the NIH.

The phase two trial could begin later this year or early next, and would be conducted in cooperation with investigators at the University of Michigan, the company said.

In July, scientists at Stanford University said in the journal Stem Cell Reports they could not replicate NeoStem's findings of VSELs in the bone marrow of lab mice.

Instead, they found that what was purported to be VSELs -- about five micrometers in diameter -- were either debris or dead cells.

Two previous studies published in the journal PLoS One in 2012 and 2013 also described unsuccessful attempts to locate the cells.

However, several other labs have been able to research the cells by following the precise methods described by patent-holders, according to Mariusz Ratajczak, whose lab in the southern state of Kentucky first found the cells in mice in 2006.

The field of stem cell research has raised hopes of finding cures for everything from blindness to paralysis, but the work is controversial and fraught with legal barriers over patents.

Embryonic stem cell research has been a political lightning rod, opposed by religious groups and individuals who regard a stem cell as a human life form.

Meanwhile, stem cells isolated from adult tissues are receiving plenty of attention, but researchers have yet to find a way to use them on a large scale to safely and efficiently regenerate organs and tissues.

EU 'appalled' by 8-year-old girl's death in forced marriage

BRUSSELS (AFP) - European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton on Friday demanded Yemen ban the forced marriage of children after the death of an eight-year-old from injuries on her wedding night.

Ashton said in a statement she was "appalled" by the girl's death from serious injuries including internal bleeding.

"I call on the Yemeni government to abide by its obligations under international law, including the UN Conventions protecting the rights of the child, of which Yemen is a member, and to immediately reinstate legislation setting a minimum age for marriage, in line with international norms, to prohibit such abuse of children."

Arwa Othman, head of

Yemen's House of Folklore and a leading rights campaigner, has said the girl, identified only as Rawan, was married to a 40-year-old last week in the town of Meedi in Hajjah province, north-western Yemen.

"On the wedding night and after intercourse, she suffered from bleeding and uterine rupture which caused her death," Othman was quoted as saying in British daily The Guardian.

"They took her to a clinic but the medics couldn't save her life."

Othman said authorities had not taken any action against the girl's family or her husband.

But the paper quoted a security official denying any such incident had taken place.

Honduras steps up WTO fight over Australia tobacco law

GENEVA (AFP) - Honduras on Friday raised the pressure on Australia over its landmark plain packaging rules for tobacco by launching a full-blown dispute at the World Trade Organization, the global body said.

The WTO said that Honduras, one of four countries that say they oppose Australia's legislation on commercial grounds, had requested the formation of a dispute settlement panel to settle the issue.

It is the second time that Honduras has made such a request. Its first attempt in November 2012 was blocked by Australia, a move allowed just once under WTO rules.

Australia's pioneering legislation, passed in 2011 and in force since last December, aims to curb smoking by re-

quiring tobacco products to be sold in drab green boxes with the same typeface and graphic images of diseased smokers.

Given that the legislation covers all tobacco products, not just cigarettes, it been challenged at the WTO by Honduras and fellow cigar-producing nations Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

The Geneva-based WTO oversees its 159 member economies' respect for the rules of global commerce. Its dispute settlement process, steered by independent trade and legal experts, can last for years.

In the event that the plaintiffs won their case, the WTO's disputes settlement body would have the power to authorise retaliatory trade measures against Australia if the country failed to fall into line.



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Sci-Tech

Argentina nabs young 'super hacker'

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - A 19-year-old Argentine has been arrested on charges of hacking into online gambling pages and international money transfer sites, authorities said Friday.

The Buenos Aires man is said to have been making \$50,000 a month as leader of a hacking gang that included seven other people, who remain under investigation, the security ministry said.

It called the detainee a 'super hacker.'

He is the son of a computer systems engineer and worked from home in a "technological cave" with several high power computers and lots of other high-tech equipment, the ministry said in a statement.

The arrest in so-called "Operation Zombie" stems from a probe that began in 2012.



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Twitter IPO will be hot but with risks

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Twitter is leveraging its phenomenal growth for one of the hottest stock offerings in years, but questions remain on its ability to sustain its breakneck pace of expansion.

While financial details of the popular messaging platform are not public, the private company research firm PrivCo estimates that Twitter generated \$245 million in revenue in 2012, and predicts the figure will be \$500 million in 2013.

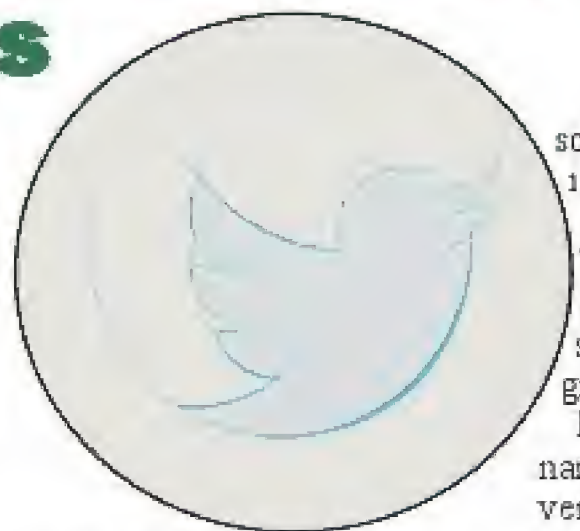
This suggests a market value of some \$15 billion for the initial public offering (IPO), PrivCo says, using a "conservative" pricing at 30 times its annual revenue.

"It's not quite Facebook but it's certainly the biggest thing since Facebook," said Lou Kerner, founder of the Social Internet Fund, referring to the May 2012 IPO of the world's biggest social network.

"Social media is very hot, with Facebook hitting an all-time high, and investors are looking for other ways to play that," Kerner told AFP.

Kerner said Twitter will be in high demand because "it is well on its way to becoming one of a small number of ubiquitous platforms used by a majority of people on the planet."

Underwriters may be cautious about pricing in the wake



of Facebook's debacle last year, which saw a drop of some 50 percent, Kerner said, but with Twitter's growth, "\$15 billion does not seem unreasonable."

Kerner said Twitter has shown it is a powerful platform for a variety of forms of expression, and "tremendous" for marketing.

It is also "well-positioned to be the dominant second-stream platform," for people watching television and using Twitter for feedback or to determine trends, he said.

While there are no guarantees Twitter will remain dominant, Kerner said the more it grows, the harder it will be to unseat.

Nate Elliott, analyst at Forrester Research, said Twitter has "gotten a lot of traction from a relatively small group of online users."

The San Francisco company says only there are more than 200 million active users, but

some analysts say this figure is 500 million or more.

Elliott said however that Twitter has established itself as the place to be for what some refer to as "microblogging."

Because it publishes no financial data, analysts have divergent estimates on its revenues.

The research firm eMarketer, for one, says Twitter is expected to earn \$582.8 million in global ad revenue this year, and nearly \$1 billion in 2014.

Twitter, which launched in 2006, opened the door to advertisers in 2010 by allowing marketers to insert paid "promoted tweets" into user feeds.

It began mobile ads in 2012 and allowed advertisers to target users based on their geographic location or whether they access the service using mobile devices or personal computers.

Yet some analysts are cautious, especially in view of Twitter's decision to delay the release of its finances.

Using the 2012 law allowing confidential IPO filings "is not good, considering that social media is all about openness and transparency," said Trip Chowdhry at Global Equities Research.

Flooding kills three in US state of Colorado



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Deadly flash floods have killed at least three people in the US state of Colorado, as residents were evacuated, roads closed and a dam was breached, authorities said Thursday.

Two people were confirmed dead near Boulder, northwest of Denver, while one body was recovered from floodwaters in Colorado Springs, south of the state capital.

Video footage and photographs showed the region under driving rain as water coursed down roadways and washed away vehicles. Standing water reached above car tires in some places.

The National Weather Service warned that "most flood deaths occur in automobiles," adding "flood waters are usually deeper than they appear."

Just one foot of flowing water is powerful enough to sweep vehicles off the road."

A mandatory evacuation order was in place for Jamestown, Boulder County's Boerkircher said, adding that hundreds of people elsewhere in the county had voluntarily gone to shelters, including some 200 people in Lyons and around 400 people at Boulder's University of Colorado campus.

Early Friday, Boulder County spokesman James Burrus said the entire hamlet of Eldorado Springs, about 500 people, was urged to evacuate because of a flash flood and mudslide threat along South Boulder Creek. According to local storm reports, more than 14 inches of rain had fallen since Monday in the town.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Mistletoe treat
5. Hod contents
9. Air-rifle ammo
12. Concept
13. Tender sentiment
14. Diamond woman
15. Kewpie
16. Page for viewpoints (hyph.)
17. "...a man mouse?" (2 wds.)
18. Stunts

20. An oldie, but a

22. Scoundrel
24. Like a discharged battery

25. Blouse
26. Ending for major

29. Mr. Flintstone
32. Ref. in baseball

33. Fathered
35. Actress Arden

36. Explosion sound
38. Video game heroine Croft

39. ... Cruces
40. Rome's language (abbr.)

42. Side

44. Egyptian peninsula

46. Eight musicians

48. Great amount

49. Papa's partner

51. Verdi work

54. Have bills

55. ... out (supplements)

56. Comforter filler

57. Small mass

58. Actress Ivey

59. Bad mood

DOWN

1. Young goat
2. Wedding vow (2 wds.)

3. Personally designated (hyph.)
4. Massachusetts

- city

5. Clog

6. Fumbler's word

7. Wide street (abbr.)

8. Projecting shelflike part

9. Close kin (2 wds.)

10. Cardinal, e.g.

11. Kill

19. Orangutans

21. Dunce

22. Toe trauma

23. Singer Perry

24. Roebuck

27. Embezzler's cash source

28. Refrain word

30. Actress Rachel Wood

31. School table

34. Crazy

37. NYC transit org.

41. Pointed

43. Dominates when dancing

44. Like a snail

45. Hawkeye State

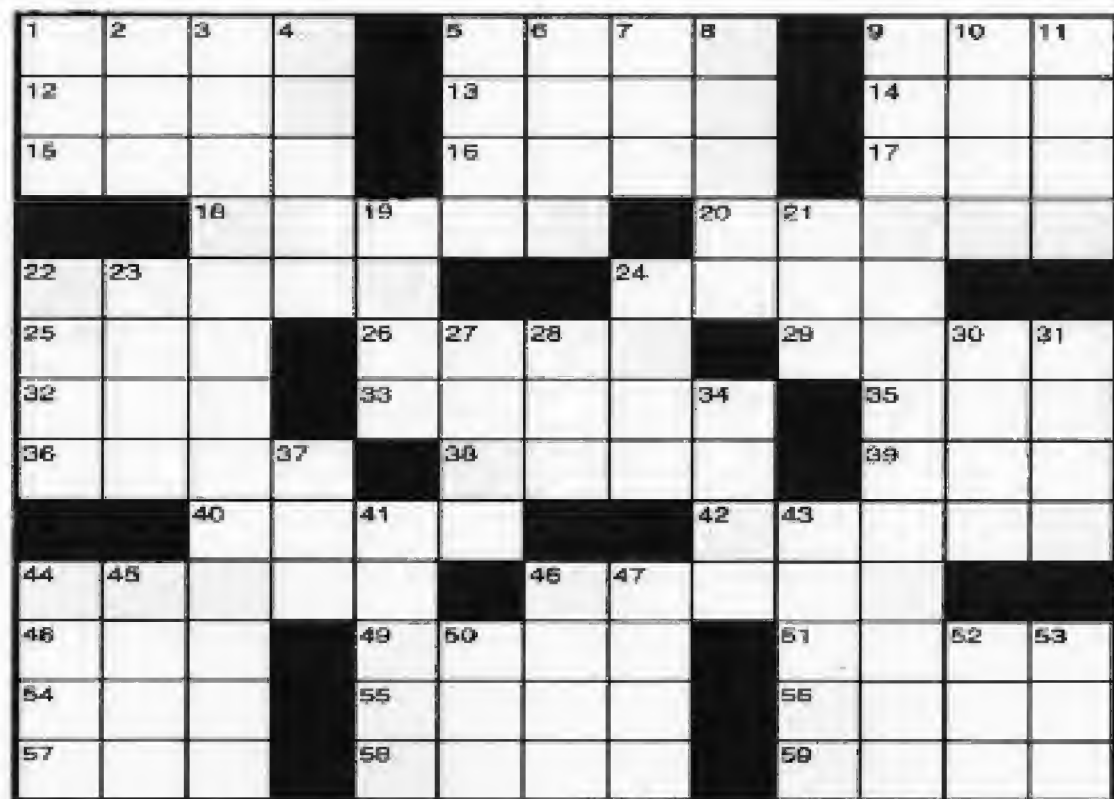
46. Harbinger

47. Miguel's house

50. Wanted poster initials

52. Sol's conviction (abbr.)

53. Toiling insect



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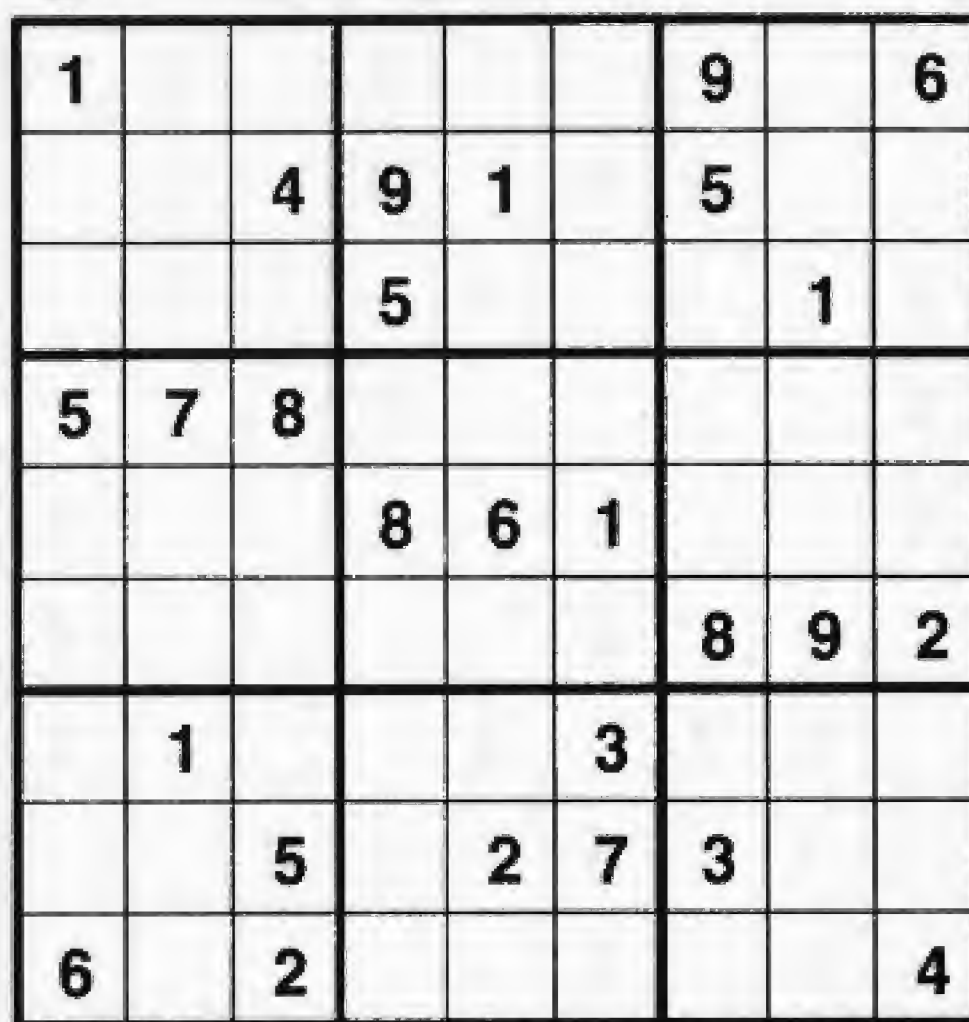
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Sudoku



SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



HONG KONG — Hong Kong's government said Friday it would stop serving shark fin at official functions as "a good example", following years of lobbying by conservation groups. The southern Chinese city is one of the world's biggest markets for shark fin, which is viewed by many Asians as a delicacy and is often served as a soup at expensive Chinese banquets. Along with shark fin, bluefin tuna will also fall under the ban, which was prompted by what authorities called "conservation concerns".

Nigerian residents reject Shell settlement over oil spills

LAGOS (AFP) - Negotiations between Shell and Nigerian residents affected by two oil spills in 2008 failed to reach a compensation deal Friday, with residents' lawyers calling the oil giant's settlement offer "insulting."

Talks began on Monday in Port Harcourt, the oil hub in southern Nigeria's Niger Delta region, with representatives of about 15,000 residents from Bodo, a cluster of fishing communities in Rivers state.

Both the British-Dutch firm and the residents' lawyers said the talks had failed to reach a compensation deal and it was unclear when further talks would occur. Villagers rejected the offer unanimously, their lawyers said.

Shell said however that progress had been made regarding plans for a clean-up of the area.

Meetings have been set for September 26 and 27 to discuss how to proceed with a clean-up, with the talks to be overseen by the Dutch ambassador. The community and Shell have so far been unable to agree on the parameters for a clean-up.

Sources familiar with the talks said Shell proposed a settlement of 7.5 billion naira (\$46 million, 35 million euros). Shell and lawyers for the community declined to discuss the total settlement amount.

However, Martyn Day, senior partner at London-based law firm Leigh Day, which represented Bodo residents in the talks, told AFP each individual would end up with around 275,000 naira (1,300 euros, \$1,700) after subtracting a lump sum to be paid to the community.

Nigeria is Africa's biggest crude producer, but much of the Niger Delta oil region remains deeply impoverished.

Decades of spills have caused widespread pollution in the region.

Shell, the biggest producer in Nigeria, says sabotage and

oil theft are the main causes of spills, but activists allege the firm has not done enough to prevent such incidents and clean them when they occur.

Brazil, Chevron, Transocean reach oil spill settlement

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazilian prosecutors Friday said they have reached an agreement with Chevron and Transocean to settle unresolved lawsuits over a 2011 oil leak off the coast of Rio de Janeiro.

The agreement was to be signed at 3:00 pm (1800 GMT), a spokeswoman for federal prosecutors in Rio said.

A Chevron spokesman also confirmed that an agreement had been reached but neither side would discuss the details.

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Oil prices closed in mixed fashion Friday as the US and Russia held crucial talks on dismantling Syria's chemical weapons arsenal.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate for October delivery, slipped 39 cents to close at \$108.21 a barrel.

The European benchmark, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in October, edged up 15 cents on the future contract's final day to \$112.78 a barrel in London trade.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov held a second day of talks in Geneva to hammer out the details of a Russian plan to secure Syria's chemical weapons.

Both sides said they hoped the chemical weapons talks would open the door to wider efforts to end Syria's civil war, which has claimed more than 110,000 lives since March 2011.

Kerry said Washington and Moscow were "working hard to find common ground" to get peace talks going in Geneva that would bring together Assad's regime and the opposition.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has vowed to relinquish his chemical arms, after the alleged August 21 attack on civilians prompted threats of US-led military strikes.

Timothy Evans of Citi Energy Futures said there had been a sense of progress after Kerry said the discussion so far had been constructive.

Though Syria is not a major oil producer, the market fears that a US-led military intervention could spread conflict in the oil-rich Middle East.

Oil prices were also supported by fresh reports of supply disruptions in crude exporter Libya after the country's National Oil Corporation on Thursday declared force majeure on three ports.

Libyan oil exports plunged in August by more than 70 percent after protesters, including policemen and border guards, forced terminals to shut over a pay dispute.

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YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

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F	R	O	G		S	A	T	E		G	A	L
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			R	E	G	A	R	I				
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M	I	A		S	I	N	K		M	O	O	T
W	R	Y		E	N	D	S		U	P	A	

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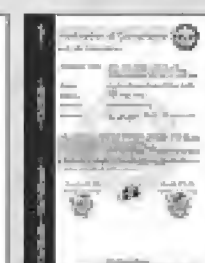
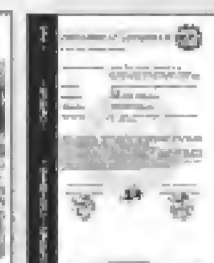
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Colombia says no to registering Pablo Escobar as brand

BOGOTA (AFP) - In life, Pablo Escobar was legendary -- a cocaine lord venerated by Colombia's poor and hunted relentlessly by police. In death came books, a TV series and plans for a movie.

But registering his name as a commercial brand, as requested by the Escobar family, goes way too far, a government body overseeing intellectual property has ruled.

To wit, says the superintendent of industry and trade, such a gesture would "undermine the morals and public order of Colombian society and defend violence, drug trafficking and terrorism."

Escobar, head of the powerful Medellin drug cartel in the 1980s and early 90s, was shot dead by police in 1993 as he tried to escape a raid by scampering across rooftops.

His widow Maria Isabel Santos, and two children filed to register his name as a brand. They have been living in Argentina under assumed names



for years.

The request was first denied in 2006 and again in 2012, but the family kept at it and appealed again.

And it has been turned down again. No more appeals can be filed.

The superintendent said Escobar is associated with a cycle of violence that left thousands of victims and "is remembered as 'the biggest drug lord in history.'"

In the petition, the Escobar family had argued that a Pablo Escobar brand would "transmit

messages that invite humanity to reflect in order to create a society that recovers and respects human rights," said the superintendent's office.

Escobar fought a bloody war to avoid being extradited to the United States, which wanted him for allegedly being behind the shipment of tons and tons of cocaine to the United States.

Many poor Colombians loved Escobar because of his largesse with them, and such.

Books were written about him, a TV series made, and a movie is imminent about him, with Benicio del Toro playing Escobar.

Colombian artist Fernando Botero did an oil painting depicting Escobar, and the image has ended up on T-shirts and stickers.

His grave in Medellin, his home town, and his estate, called Napoles, are tourist attractions.



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Court denies Canadian woman's custody of monkey



TORONTO (AFP) - A judge on Friday denied a Canadian woman's bid to get back her pet monkey from authorities who seized it after finding the stylishly-attired animal wandering in a car park.

Toronto area resident Yashmin Nakhuda had gone to court to try to force a sanctuary that took in the animal -- which she described as her child -- to return it.

But Ontario Superior Court Judge Mary Vallee ruled against her.

"The monkey is not a child," Vallee said in a 13-page

decision.

"The monkey is a wild animal... (and) Ms. Nakhuda lost ownership of the monkey when she lost possession."

The Japanese snow macaque monkey named Darwin became an instant Internet celebrity last December when Nakhuda took the animal shopping at Ikea.

While she was inside the store, Darwin escaped his crate inside her locked car and was spotted strolling around the furniture store's parking lot, wearing a sheepskin coat.

Rappers donate after 6-year-old girl shot dead

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Rapper-turned-reggae star Snoop Dogg is donating money for the funeral of a 6-year-old girl killed in a gang-style shooting, joining a fellow rap artist in supporting her family, he said Thursday. The 41-year-old said the death of Tiana Ricks east of Los Angeles highlighted the need to step up campaigning against gun violence. He did not say how much he was donating. Tiana and her 26-year-old father were shot last weekend outside their home in Moreno Valley, by two men who walked up to them and opened fire. Police chiefs have said the shooting could "possibly be gang related," although Ricks was not believed to be involved in gang activity.



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Keshi Yena with plantains, vegetables and pica

-- An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming

eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -"Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of

chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each in-



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

cluding a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open for Dinner from 18.00 to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining.

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From an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

SPORTS



-Continuing with our en route to the World Cup, Brazil 2014 we'll present today #5- of the best 20 defenders of all time list with **Ronald Koeman** who with his talent and skill contributed greatly to his national team.

Ronald Koeman, (born 21 March 1963 in Zaandam, North Holland) is a former Dutch footballer (midfielder), and the current manager of Feyenoord. He is the younger brother of former Feyenoord coach Erwin Koeman and the son of former Dutch international Martin Koeman. He was renowned for his long-range accuracy, especially in free kicks.

In 1980 Koeman started his professional career together with his brother Erwin Koeman at Groningen. After playing for Ajax, PSV Eindhoven and Barcelona, he finished his career in Feyenoord.

During his career he won two European Cup titles, five Dutch championships, three Dutch Cups, four Spanish championships, one Spanish Cup and he was also in the

winning Dutch national team at the UEFA Euro 1988.

After scoring the winning free kick goal in the 1992 European Cup Final, he became the first player to score a goal in two consecutive Cup Finals of different European competitions, having earlier scored Barcelona's consolation goal against Manchester United in the 1991 European Cup Winners' Cup Final.

Besides being a defender at the centreback position, Koeman was also known for his powerful right-footed free-kicks and deadball ability where he scored many vital goals for the team.

Ronald Koeman currently holds the record for 25 consecutive successful penalty conversions in La Liga.

In 1988 He became the most expensive player after being paid 1.800million pesetas to join FC Barcelona.

He represented his nation in the 1990 World Cup and World Cup 1994 and picked up a total of 78 caps for The Netherlands, scoring 14 goals. During the 1988 European Championship.

Koeman will always get a mention in FC Barcelona (The Dream team) history for scoring the goal that handed Barça victory in the 1992 European Cup at Wembley. He was part of the club's coaching staff from July 1998 to December 1999.

Koeman scored 193 league goals in 533 matches (ahead of Daniel Passarella, who netted 182 goals in 556 matches) during his career, more than any other defender in the history of football.

Having retired as a player after his stint with Feyenoord, Koeman became member of the coaching staff of Guus Hiddink during the 1998



World Cup along with Johan Neeskens and Frank Rijkaard. After the tournament Koeman was appointed the assistant coach of Barcelona. In 2000, he was handed his first managerial job as the head coach of Vitesse where he led the team to a UEFA Cup spot on a relatively limited budget.

It's being reported that Ronald Koeman will be the Head Coach of the Dutch National team after the retirement of Louis van Gaal in 2014.

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EuroBasket: France, Lithuania, Serbia into quarters



LJUBLJANA (AFP) - Basketball giants France and Lithuania booked their spots in the quarter-finals of the 2013 European championships in Slovenia with victories on Friday and were joined in the knockout stage by surprise losers Serbia.

France bounced back from a 14-point loss to Lithuania two nights earlier and beat Latvia 102-91 to improve their record to 3-1 in Group E in Ljubljana.

Lithuania blasted their way past Belgium 86-67 with three players reaching double figures and four more hitting at least seven points.

Serbia also advanced to the quarters despite an 82-75 defeat against Ukraine. Maxym Korniyenko scored 21 points while Pooh Jeter tallied 20 points for the Ukrainians, who improved to 2-2.

Ukraine or Latvia will claim the fourth berth from Group E while the Belgians have been eliminated.

EuroBasket 2013 will continue today with three games in Group F. Croatia (2-1) will take on Italy (2-1) in the first battle, followed by Spain (1-2) versus Finland (1-2) with the night-capper seeing Greece (1-2) squaring off with hosts Slovenia (2-1).

Auto Racing: IndyCar drops Baltimore race

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - IndyCar will not return to Baltimore for a race in 2014, the US-based open-wheel series announced on Friday, just 12 days after Frenchman Simon

Pagenaud won the final title.

The series used a 2.04-mile (3.3km) street course along the downtown area around the ballpark that is home to Major League Baseball's Baltimore Orioles and staged the event on the US Labor Day weekend.

"After a successful visit to Baltimore, which included record attendance, we are disappointed that our schedules will not align to host an event in 2014," said Mark Miles, chief executive officer of IndyCar's parent company.

"This was simply a matter of trying to find the best date that worked for all parties, since Labor Day weekend was not an option in 2014.

"We continue to finalize our 2014 schedule and anticipate announcing it prior to the end of our 2013 season."

Cyclist Obree sets speed record

BATTLE MOUNTAIN (AFP) - Former Scottish cycling champion Graeme Obree set a new world record Friday, hurtling head-first across the Nevada desert at over 50 mph on a prone-style bike called "The Beastie." The 48-year-old, known as "The Flying Scotsman," broke a 30-year-old record for a one-man prone machine by reaching 56.6 mph (91.1 kph) at the World Human Powered Speed Challenge event near Battle Mountain, in the western US state. The Nevada event, in its 14th year, tests riders on "what is arguably the straightest, flattest, and smoothest road surface in the world," according to organizers. At an altitude of 4,619ft (1,408m), they can accelerate over four miles to reach their maximum velocity being timed over a 200-meter distance. In his top cycling days - when he was known for his distinctive aerodynamic helmet and riding position - Obree twice set the world hour record in 1993 and 1994, and he was the 4,000 m pursuit champion in 1993 and 1995. In 2006 his story was made into a film called "The Flying Scotsman," which told how he built his bike from old bits of washing machines, won glory on the world cycling stage but also suffered lows, including with mental health problems. Olympic champion cyclist Chris Hoy is among those who have paid tribute to Obree's pioneering spirit.



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Boxing: Mayweather awaits game plan from Floyd Sr.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The world's highest paid athlete Floyd Mayweather puts his perfect record on the line when he squares off against Mexican dynamo Saul Alvarez in a showdown between two undefeated boxers on Saturday.

The 12-round showdown at the MGM Grand hotel will be contested at 152 pounds with Alvarez's World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association super welterweight titles on the line. Alvarez (42-0-1) is a 154-pound champion and Mayweather usually fights at 147 pounds.

Mayweather, who will make at least \$41 million for



this fight, surprisingly told ESPN on Thursday that he is still waiting to hear what game plan his trainer/father Floyd Sr. has in store for him.

Asked by the commentator to explain why, with just two days to go before the fight, he didn't know what his father's tactics were going to be, Mayweather gave a rambling answer.

"I am talking about what my father has in store. You don't have a game plan eight weeks into the fight," said Mayweather, who is undefeated in 44 fights. "Because right before I go into the ring my dad is going to say 'this is what I want you to work on'. So I go out there and do it."

Former pro boxer Floyd Mayweather Sr. taught his son to fight and was his trainer early in Floyd Jr.'s career.

They had a falling out and the uncle, Roger Mayweather, took over as Floyd Jr.'s trainer. Then earlier this year Floyd Jr. made up with his father and this marks the second straight bout Floyd Sr. will be running the show.

Last week Mayweather said his team has handpicked many of his opponents which not only helped him avoid getting

hurt but meant he received million dollar paydays for little work.

The bigger and stronger Alvarez, who goes by the nickname "Canelo" said Wednesday he is sparring at 155 pounds but is comfortable moving down in weight and doesn't see any problem making the limit for Friday's weigh-in.

Today's fight has generated huge interest, especially in Mexico where the 23-year-old Alvarez is considered one of their biggest sporting heroes.

Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao tried several times to get Mayweather in the ring but each time the American scuttled those negotiations with new demands.

Mayweather told ESPN that Pacquiao, who is also a politician in his native Philippines, is no longer on his radar.

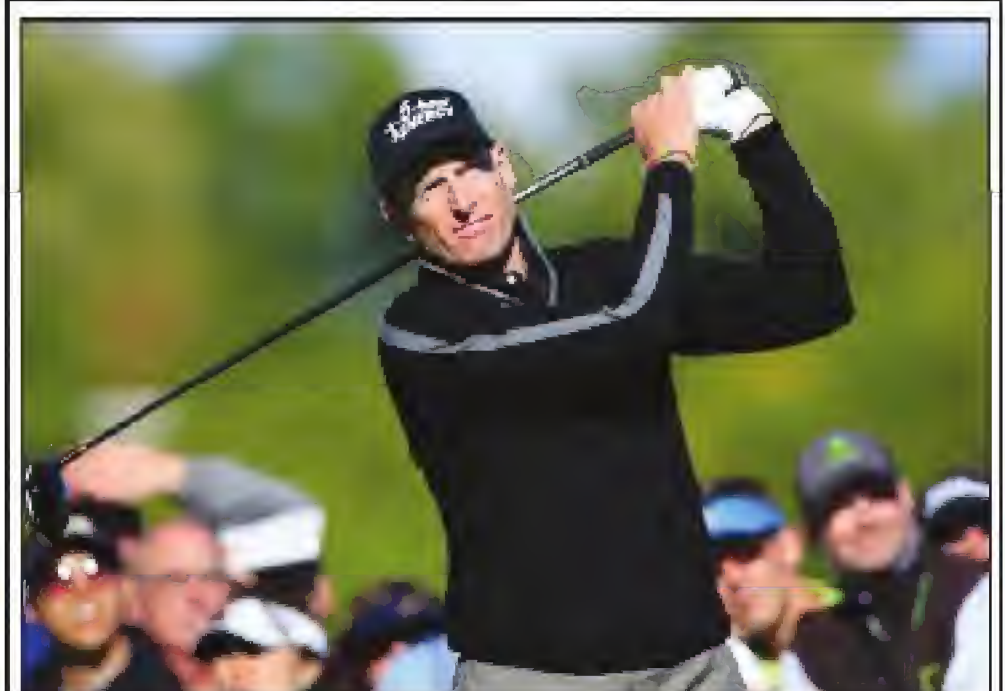
"Pacquiao is not even fighting in the US anymore," Mayweather said. "I am fighting one of the top guys in the sport."

The fight with Alvarez is the second in Mayweather's six-bout, 30-month contract with American cable network Showtime that could pay him more than \$200 million.

After Mayweather beat Robert Guerrero in May, he said he wanted to fight again in September - marking the first time since 2007 he will be in the ring twice in a calendar year.

Mayweather's guaranteed purse for the Alvarez fight is reported to be a record \$41 million which would surpass the previous record of \$32 million he received for fighting Guerrero.

Organizers are also hoping that this fight will eclipse two million pay-per-view sales. Mayweather will also get a cut of the pay-per-view money on top of his guaranteed purse.



CHICAGO (AFP) - Jim Furyk became just the sixth golfer in US PGA Tour history to shoot a 59 on Friday, reaching golf's magic number in the second round of the BMW Championship. Furyk capped his round at the par-71 Conway Farms Golf Club with a birdie at the ninth hole. He had 11 birdies, one eagle and one bogey and joined Brandt Snedeker atop the leaderboard.

Joe Girardi to be a free agent at the end of the year



NEW YORK - New York Yankees manager Joe Girardi has done an impressive job this season. The Yankees enter Friday with a 79-68 record, one game behind the Tampa Bay Rays for the second AL Wild Card spot. The team has stayed competitive despite a number of injuries to key players and the Alex Rodriguez circus.

Girardi may be rewarded with the AL Manager of the

Year award for his efforts, but he will be a free agent at the end of the season. That leaves him with a number of options heading into next season.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman stated that the club would like Girardi back, but the team has yet to sign him to an extension. New York will likely remain an attractive option for Girardi, but other positions could interest him as well.

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Tennis: US Open champ Nadal puts Spain on brink of victory

PARIS (AFP) - Rafael Nadal showed no hint of a US Open hangover as he crushed Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-0, 6-0, 6-4 to put Spain 2-0 up on Ukraine in their Davis Cup World Group play-off in Madrid on Friday.

The world number two and new US Open champion returned to action less than four days after securing a second success at Flushing Meadows, and a 13th Grand Slam in total.

Yet he showed no signs of fatigue as he mastered his favourite clay surface and in so doing inflicted a humiliating defeat on the world 92nd ranked player who dumped Roger Federer out of Wimbledon in July.

Earlier, Fernando Verdasco had battled back from a set down to beat world number 40 Alexandr Dolgoplov 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 to put Spain firmly in command.

And such is Nadal's desire to kill the tie off that he has chosen to pair up with Marc Lopez for Saturday's doubles clash.

Another player to dish out a tennis lesson was Britain's Andy Murray, who thumped 16-year-old Borna Coric 6-3, 6-0, 6-3 as Croatia and Britain finished the day tied at 1-1 in Umag.

The US Open junior champion initially caused Britain's world number three problems but from 3-3 in the first set, Murray won nine games in a row to take complete control.

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Baseball: Court upholds Bonds obstruction conviction

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - US baseball's all-time home run king Barry Bonds lost his appeal against a conviction for obstructing the course of justice on Friday.

A federal appeals court upheld the conviction which centred on Bonds' testimony to a grand jury investigating the BALCO steroid scandal.

Bonds, a former slugger for the San Francisco Giants, owns the Major League Baseball record for most homers in a season with 73 in

2001 and the career mark with 762.

In 2011, he was charged with lying under oath and other violations when denying he had used performance-enhancing drugs before a grand jury hearing about the BALCO scandal in 2003.

But the only charge on which Bonds was convicted was for obstruction of justice when he gave a rambling, evasive



answer about his life as the son of a baseball star when asked if his trainer, BALCO-linked Greg Anderson, had ever given him self-injectable substances.

A unanimous three-judge opinion by the appeal court rejected the arguments by Bonds and his attorneys that his testimony was "evasive, misleading and capable of influencing the grand jury to minimize

the trainer's role in the distribution of performance-enhancing drugs."

Bonds faces two years on probation and 30 days of electronically monitored house arrest on the conviction. The seven-time National League Most Valuable Player also faces a \$4,000 fine and 250 hours of community service.

Bonds could appeal the latest ruling to a larger panel of judges or the US Supreme Court.